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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/939,199	08/24/2001	Jeffrey J. Norris	2316.1485US01	3383

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EXAMINER

LEON, EDWIN A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2833

DATE MAILED: 12/04/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/939,199

Applicant(s)

NORRIS ET AL.

Examiner

Edwin A. León

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 September 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment filed September 11, 2002 in which Claims 1, 4, 6-11 and 13 have been amended and Claim 2 has been cancelled, has been placed of record in the file as Paper No. 8.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 1 and 3-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1 and 10, recite the limitation "a plurality of mount apparatuses" in Line 3. It is unclear if the mount apparatus is one of the plurality of mount apparatuses recited in Lines 7 and 4 respectively or a different one. For examination purposes, the Examiner will assume that the mount apparatuses are the same.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in-

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

5. Claims 1, 3-8 and 10-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Henneberger et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,116,961). With regard to Claim 1, Henneberger et al. discloses a system for use with jack assemblies (62a-b) including front plug receiving ports (104a,106a,108a,110a,112a) and rear electrical contacts (141a-156a) comprising: a chassis (20) arranged and configured to retain a plurality of mount apparatuses (22), the chassis (20) including a power bus (52) having a plurality of power plugs (54) for providing electrical power, the power bus (52) further including a power intake (56) for receiving electrical power, the chassis (20) defining a plurality of jack assembly receiving areas (where 22 is mounted); and a plurality of mount apparatus (22) mounted in the chassis (20), each of the mount apparatus (22) including a power receptacle (266) for receiving electrical power from one of the plurality of power

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plugs (54), each of the mount apparatus (22) including front electrical contacts (276) and rear electrical contacts (268), the front electrical contacts (276) configured for contacting the rear electrical contacts (141a-156a) of the jack assemblies (62a-b). See Figs. 1-17, Column 5, Lines 1-15, Column 11, Lines 19-38 and Column 12, Lines 34-49.

With regard to Claim 3, Henneberger et al. discloses the chassis (20) further including first and second cable guides (28,30). See Figs. 1-17, Column 5, Lines 1-15, Column 11, Lines 19-38 and Column 12, Lines 34-49.

With regard to Claim 4, Henneberger et al. discloses a plurality of jack assemblies (62a-b) each having front and plug receiving ports (104a,106a,108a,110a,112a) and rear electrical contacts (141a-156a) that are electrically connected to the mount apparatus (22). See Figs. 1-17, Column 5, Lines 1-15, Column 11, Lines 19-38 and Column 12, Lines 34-49.

With regard to Claim 5, Henneberger et al. discloses the chassis (20) including slots (48) for retaining the jack assembly (62a-b). See Figs. 1-17, Column 5, Lines 1-15, Column 11, Lines 19-38 and Column 12, Lines 34-49.

With regard to Claim 6, Henneberger et al. discloses the mount apparatus (22) including: a front cover (200) having a plurality of receptacles (266); a back cover (66) having a plurality of through holes (Column 12, Lines 1-8); and a circuit board assembly (68) sandwiched between the front cover (200) and the back cover (66), the circuit assembly (68) including a plurality of pins (Column 12, Lines 34-49) extending through the holes (Column 12, Lines 1-8) in the back cover (66). See Figs. 1-17, Column 5, Lines 1-15, Column 11, Lines 19-38 and Column 12, Lines 34-49.

With regard to Claim 7, Henneberger et al. discloses the circuit board assembly (68) including a board (68) having a plurality of through holes (Column 12, Lines 1-8) aligned with the receptacles (266) of the front cover (200) and the through holes (Column 12, Lines 1-8) of the back cover (66); a plurality of contacts (141a-156a) retained in a first set of the through holes (Column 12, Lines 1-8) of the board (68) of the circuit board assembly (68), a first end of each contact (141a-156a) defining each of the front electrical contacts (276) and being extended towards and exposed in a corresponding receptacle (266) of the front cover (200) and stopped by the front cover (200), a second end of each contact (141a-156a) being extended towards and projecting toward the back cover (66); the plurality of pins (141a-156a) retained in a second set of the through holes (Column 12, Lines 1-8) of the board (68) of the circuit board assembly (68), a first end of each pin (Column 12, Lines 34-49) being extended towards and stopped by the front cover (200), a second end of each pin (Column 12, Lines 34-49) being extended towards and projected from a corresponding through hole (Column 12, Lines 1-8) of the back cover (66); and a trace (Column 12, Lines 34-49) electrically connecting each contact (141a-156a) to each corresponding pin (Column 12, Lines 34-49). See Figs. 1-17, Column 5, Lines 1-15, Column 11, Lines 19-38 and Column 12, Lines 34-49.

With regard to Claim 8, Henneberger et al. discloses the mount apparatus (22) including a circuit board assembly (68) having a circuit board (68) and a plurality of electrical terminals (276), the electrical terminals (276) including the front electrical

contacts (276) of the mount (22). See Figs. 1-17, Column 5, Lines 1-15, Column 11, Lines 19-38 and Column 12, Lines 34-49.

With regard to Claim 10, Henneberger et al. discloses a system for use with jack assemblies (62a-b) including front plug receiving ports (104a, 106a, 108a, 110a, 112a) and rear electrical contacts (141a-156a) comprising: a chassis (20) arranged and configured to retain a plurality of mount apparatuses (22), the plurality of mount apparatus (22) mounted in the chassis (20), each of the mount apparatus (22) including: a front cover (200) having a plurality of receptacles (266) including electrical contacts for mating with the rear electrical contacts (141a-156a) of the jack assemblies (62a-b); a back cover (66) having a plurality of through holes (Column 12, Lines 1-8); and a circuit board assembly (68) sandwiched between the front cover (200) and the back cover (66), the circuit assembly (68) including a plurality of pins (Column 12, Lines 34-49) extending through the holes (Column 12, Lines 1-8) in the back cover (66), and the chassis (20) defining a plurality of jack assembly receiving areas (where 22 is mounted). See Figs. 1-17, Column 5, Lines 1-15, Column 11, Lines 19-38 and Column 12, Lines 34-49.

With regard to Claim 11, Henneberger et al. discloses the circuit board assembly (68) including: a board (68) having a plurality of through holes (Column 12, Lines 1-8) aligned with the receptacles (266) of the front cover (200) and the through holes (Column 12, Lines 1-8) of the back cover (66); a plurality of contacts (141a-156a) retained in a first set of the through holes (Column 12, Lines 1-8) of the board (68) of the circuit board assembly (68), a first end of each contact (141a-156a) defining each of

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the electrical contacts of the front cover (200) and being extended towards and exposed in a corresponding receptacle (266) of the front cover (200) and stopped by the front cover (200), a second end of each contact (141a-156a) being extended towards and projecting toward the back cover (66); a plurality of pins (Column 12, Lines 34-49) retained in a second set of the through holes (Column 12, Lines 1-8) of the board (68) of the circuit board assembly (68), a first end of each pin (Column 12, Lines 34-49) being extended towards and stopped by the front cover (200), a second end of each pin (Column 12, Lines 34-49) being extended towards and projected from a corresponding through hole (Column 12, Lines 1-8) of the back cover (66); and a trace (Column 12, Lines 34-49) electrically connecting each contact (141a-156a) to each corresponding pin (Column 12, Lines 34-49). See Figs. 1-17, Column 5, Lines 1-15, Column 11, Lines 19-38 and Column 12, Lines 34-49.

With regard to Claim 12, Henneberger et al. discloses the chassis (20) further including first and second cable guides (28,30). See Figs. 1-17, Column 5, Lines 1-15, Column 11, Lines 19-38 and Column 12, Lines 34-49.

With regard to Claim 13, Henneberger et al. discloses a plurality of jack assemblies (62a-b) each having electrical contacts (141a-156a) that are electrically connected to the mount apparatus (22). See Figs. 1-17, Column 5, Lines 1-15, Column 11, Lines 19-38 and Column 12, Lines 34-49.

With regard to Claim 14, Henneberger et al. discloses the chassis (20) including slots (48) for retaining the jack assembly (62a-b). See Figs. 1-17, Column 5, Lines 1-15, Column 11, Lines 19-38 and Column 12, Lines 34-49.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 4-7, 9, 14, and 17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The references fail to teach, disclose, or suggest, either alone or in combination, the first and second pin members defining first and second slots configured to exert a second spring force to retain the electrical terminal in the through hole of the circuit board, the second spring force being exerted in a direction perpendicular to the first spring force.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 and 3-14 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edwin A. León whose telephone number is (703) 308-6253. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on (703) 308-2319. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

Edwin A. León
AU 2833
EAL
November 23, 2002


THO D. TA
PRIMARY EXAMINER